

**Hanson Board of Selectmen**  
**Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall**  
Tuesday, December 8, 2015  
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.

**Members Present:** Donald Howard, James McGahan, Kenny Mitchell, William Scott & Bruce Young

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Interim Town Administrator Richard LaCamera  
Executive Assistant Meredith Marini

**7:00 p.m.** Chairman Young called the meeting to order, led the Pledge Allegiance. He read the announcements and upcoming meeting schedule.

**Recognition of Super Bowl Champions Hanson Mite Warriors** – Chairman Young congratulated the Team. Mr. Mitchell gave a brief report on the season noting the Teams come behind 12 – 8 win over Abington.

**II TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT** – Mr. LaCamera reported on the following.

**Status on Bay Communication lease** – Cell Tower – Bay Communications responded to the letter of default indicating that they have been doing their due diligence. Mr. LaCamera indicated that the Board can request that Bay Communications file an application. Chairman Young noted that after 4 years plus the Town still doesn't have good cell service. Chairman Young feels that the Town should give Bay Communications 60 days to apply and then proceed with the default.

Mr. LaCamera suggested the Board invite Bay Communications to meet with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Mitchell feels the Town should give Bay Communications 30 days.

**MOTION** by Mitchell, second by Scott to require Bay Communication to file an application with the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Selectmen will move forward with the default.

**Voted 5 – 0**

**Town Possession & Streeter Property** – Mr. LaCamera indicated that the Board members have reviewed the list. The list will be sent to all the departments. He is looking to start the auction process at the beginning of the new year.

**Amendment to Highway Surveyor Act** – Mr. LaCamera reported that the bill has moved through the House of Representatives and will next go to the Senate.

**Capital Budget** – Mr. LaCamera requested the Board to review its capital budget for the next meeting. Mr. LaCamera will be meeting with representatives of the School District next week. Capital Improvement will be meeting with school representatives as well.

**Website update** – Mr. LaCamera reported that the new website is up and running. There could be a few problems and requested people to be patient. Mrs. Marini explained some of the new features of the website.

**RFP – Design Services for Highway Facility** – Mr. LaCamera indicated that he has submitted the RFP to the Central Register. Submittals are due January 8<sup>th</sup>. The building committee will narrow and interview the contractors. He indicated that the designs should be ready for consideration at the May 2016 Town Meeting.

**RFP – Radio Tower** – Mr. LaCamera is still working on the document. He hopes to have it ready for the Board’s review at the next meeting.

**Fire Station Septic System** – Mr. LaCamera reminded the Board that the bids for the septic system came in \$30,000 over the appropriation. As a result, with the assistance of Board of Health chairman, a new perc will be conducted in front of the fire station with the hope of reducing the cost of the system. No construct work will occur until January.

**Replacement of the roof at the Food Pantry.** Mr. LaCamera reported that proposals have been received for the roof replacement. Carter Roofing submitted a proposal in the amount of \$13,500.00. Mr. LaCamera requested that Board authorize him to sign the agreement. The Town will provide the shingles for the project.

**MOTION** by Scott, second by Howard to authorize Mr. LaCamera to sign the Agreement and move forward with the project. **Voted 5 – 0**

### **III NEW BUSINESS**

**Josh Singer – Edward Jones to discuss Hanson Business organization.** Mr. Singer was present with Laura Kemmett. Mrs. Kemmett was concerned that several small businesses in Town have closed. Their first meeting had several small businesses from restaurants, dance studio, funeral home and insurance companies. The next meeting is January 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Kemmett feels it will be a great group and a good way for area groups to network. They will have speakers at each of the meetings. They are looking to create a support network for local professionals and businesses. The group wants to find ways to develop and encourage local business. They would like to give back to the community. They requested that interested professionals and businesses contact them. They would like to develop a directory for new residents, a welcome program for new businesses and a Hanson Business day.

#### ***Appointments/Resignations:***

Tree Warden –

Applicants: Michael Means 342 South Street  
David Hanlon 2 Arthur Avenue

Chairman Young introduced the applicants. Mr. Howard noted that Mr. Hanlon had more experience than Mr. Means.

Mr. Hanlon indicated that the priority of the Tree Warden is public safety and to maintain the town trees. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87 has regulations regarding shade tree and utility companies. He has worked with the Highway Surveyor and the utility company. They hire a contractor for the large trees. The highway department handles the smaller jobs.

Mr. McGahan asked if either of the applicants have grant writing skills. Mr. Means is willing to learn. Mr. Hanlon indicated that he has searched for grants and did not find any.

Mr. Scott asked is either candidate has any arborist training. Mr. Hanlon indicated that as an elected position, they do not have to be an arborist.

Mr. McGahan asked about developing a budget. Mr. Means has no budget experience. Mr. Hanlon developed a budget in his former position in retail. He has also worked with the Highway Surveyor in drafting the Highway budget.

Mr. Scott noted that the statute requires that the Tree Warden have specific training. Both are willing to take the training.

Chairman Young asked if the Tree Warden is responsible for trees on conservation area. Mr. LaCamera indicated the tree warden deals mostly with trees along the public way. He noted that Conservation is usually responsible for the trees on those properties.

Mr. McGahan indicated that he reviewed the social media accounts of both candidates. He was happy to see that there was nothing negative about the Board or the Board members from either candidate.

Mr. McGahan thanked Mr. Means for applying and noted that Mr. Hanlon had provided the state statutes and information on the duties of the Tree Warden.

Mr. Scott was happy to have both individuals apply. He hoped that Mr. Means will continue to work with Mr. Brown and Mr. Hanlon.

***MOTION*** by McGahan, second Scott to appoint David Hanlon as Tree Warden. ***Voted 4 – 0 – 1 Mitchell***

***Resignation*** – Elizabeth McGuirk as the Council of Elder Affairs alternate

***MOTION*** by Howard, second by McGahan to accept with regret the resignation of Mrs. McGuirk. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Authorize Town Administrator to sign Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant from DEP in the amount of \$4,350.00. Mr. LaCamera noted that it is an annual grant which the Town receives funding. The Board of Health supports the grant.

***MOTION*** by Scott, second by Mitchell to authorize Mr. LaCamera to sign the grant. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***Discuss updating various Town Policies*** – Mr. LaCamera indicated that he reviewed some of the Town policies and noted that some were missing and other needed to be updated. Mr. LaCamera provided the Board with proposed policies for Domestic Violence, Family Medical Leave, IT, HIPPA policy regarding medical information, Social Media and Vehicle Use Policy. Mr. LaCamera requested that the Board review the policies. He will have the department heads review the policies. He noted that employees should be given copies of the policies annually and sign off that they received them. Mr. LaCamera requested comments from the Board members by January 15, 2016 for discussion thereafter.

Mr. LaCamera will have counsel review the policies as some of the policies may have an effect on collective bargaining.

Chairman Young feels that the complaint policy needs to be revised. He feels that the Town Administrator should explain the process with the committee receiving the complaint.

Mr. LaCamera will add the Complaint policy to the next agenda.

#### **IV OLD BUSINESS**

***Open Meeting Law Complaint Filings – proper procedures*** – Chairman Young indicated that the Town has received several open meeting law complaints. He noted that it is a serious matter. He explained that even if a quorum of a Board attends a meeting of another Board or Committee, it doesn't constitute a meeting of the Board. There has to be a deliberation between the parties.

Mr. McGahan feels that some of the complaints are frivolous. He recommended that residents reach out the board or committee with which they have an issue.

Chairman Young reviewed the law on meeting minutes. He noted that minutes must be presented within 10 days of a public request whether or not the minutes have been approved.

The Attorney General will not review a complaint if it is not the same complaint which was submitted to the Board or committee.

#### **V APPROVE MEETING MINUTES**

September 9, 2015

**MOTION** by McGahan, second by Mitchell to approve the minutes of September 9<sup>th</sup>.

***Voted 4 – 0 – 1 (Howard)***

December 1, 2015

Chairman Young amended the minutes of December 1, 2015 as follows:

*The Teachers Union head, stated that the last override that was passed for the Schools was only in effect for the first year, and the monies for the school disappeared the next year when Town Dept. Heads increase their budgets. That really did not happen. Even though an override is only earmarked for a particular use for one year only, that override amount remains in the Towns tax levy base forever. Unless the School Committee decreases its assessment to the Town of Hanson, there really is no leverage in the amounts provided in the override for the Schools to just vanish in subsequent years, and there has been no decrease in the Assessments to either Town.*

**MOTION** by McGahan, second by Mitchell to approve the minutes as amended. ***Voted 5 – 0***

#### **VI COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Monponsett Pond Committee*** – Mr. Howard indicated there were no meetings.

***Indian Head & Maquan Priority Repair Comm.*** – Chairman Young noted that there is a meeting this week. The contractor will be going out to insure all the punch list items have been complete.

***Highway Building Committee*** – Mr. Scott indicated there has not been a meeting.

**VII EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Chairman Young announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than the professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against, the public officer, employee, staff member or individual and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares – Administrative Professionals

So moved by Howard, second by McGahan. *Roll Call Howard aye, McGahan aye, Young aye, Scott aye and Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0*

Chairman Young noted the Board will return to open session only to adjourn.

*8:17 p.m. Brief Recess*

*9:21 p.m. return to open session*

**VIII ADJOURMENT**

*MOTION* by McGahan, second by Howard to adjourn. *Voted 5 – 0*

*9:21 p.m. Meeting Adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Marini,  
*Executive Assistant*  
*Approved and Voted 5 - 0*  
*December 15, 2015*